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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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LANSING



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TO: Geothermal Heat Pump Stakeholders

FROM: Liane J. Shekter Smith, P.E., Chief  
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance

DATE: August 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Meeting for Developing a Regulatory Statute for  
Closed Loop Geothermal Heat Pump (CLGHP) Boreholes

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is beginning the process for establishing a state statute for the purpose of regulating the installation of Closed Loop Geothermal Heat Pump boreholes. As part of that process we are convening a meeting to gain input on this topic.

The meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan, in the Con-Con A and B Conference Room.

We anticipate involvement may include persons who represent the following interests:

- Installation of CLGHP boreholes deeper than 15 feet
- Design and installation of geothermal heating and cooling equipment
- Manufacture or sale of geothermal system components
- Local and State regulatory officials
- Plumbing and mechanical contractors
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association representatives
- Michigan Ground Water Association representatives

Topics for discussion include:

- Qualifications for contractors drilling CLGHP boreholes
- Qualifications for contractors installing closed loop piping systems
- Materials for grouting boreholes
  - Thermally enhanced bentonite grout products
  - Cementitious grout products
- Heat transfer fluids
- Reporting requirements, including Global Positioning System identification of boreholes
- Isolation standards for boreholes from potential sources of contamination

We have developed **draft** statute language to be used as the starting point for discussions. The foundation for this draft language is the MDEQ's 2010 document, *Best Management Practices for Installation of Vertical Closed Loop Geothermal Systems*. The plan is to amend Michigan's Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, by adding a part. This will create the CLGHP regulations separate from Part 127 (commonly referred to as the water well construction code.) A copy of the draft statute will be available on our Web site by August 27, 2015, or by contacting this office at the number below. To access, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/deqwaterwellconstruction> and click on Geothermal Heat Pumps.

This draft is provided simply as an initial structure from which to proceed. We anticipate that there will be modifications, deletions, and additions, made to the draft as a result of stakeholder input. We are soliciting your input. Please bring with you to the meeting (or provide in writing in advance of or after the meeting) recommendations for changes that you believe will improve or update the draft language. Attendees wanting to address the group and provide their comments for consideration will be provided an opportunity.

While visiting the MDEQ Web site, take a moment to click on the red envelope symbol at the bottom of the page to sign up for e-mail news lists. By registering for this free service, program news and information regarding upcoming events will periodically be sent to your e-mail address, including those pertaining to CLGHP. On the "Subscription Topics" page, locate "Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance" and click the box "Environmental Health Programs", along with any other topics that are of interest.

Your participation in this statute development process will help to protect Michigan's groundwater resources. This is your opportunity to impact the way that CLGHP will be installed and regulated in Michigan. We ask that you take this opportunity to participate in the stakeholders meeting and to spread the word to others with an interest in this topic and encourage them to attend.

To attend the meeting on September 9, 2015, enter Constitution Hall through the east entrance off of the parking lot and check in at the security guard desk. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. James McEwan, Well Construction Program, at 517-284-6537; [mcewanj@michigan.gov](mailto:mcewanj@michigan.gov), or at MDEQ, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741.